

Message Text

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INFO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

XMT USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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FOL RPT GENEVA 09855 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN, BERN, BONN, BRUSSELS, CAIRO, CANBERRA, COPENHAGEN, DAMASCUS, DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, HELSINKI, JIDDA, KUWAIT, LONDON, LUXEMBOURG, MADRID, MEXICO, MOSCOW, OSLO, OTTAWA, PARIS, REYKJAVIK, ROME, STOCKHOLM, TEL AVIV, TOKYO, TRIPOLI, TUNIS , VIENNA & WELLINGTON DTD 29 JUN 78

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GENEVA 09855

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TAGS: ILO, PLAB

SUBJECT: ILO CONFERENCE: EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON LIBYAN-
SYRIAN RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL

REF: GENEVA 09765

IN VIEW OF THE DEFEAT OF THE SYRIAN RESOLUTION, MISSION
BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT TO UNDERSCORE THAT IN ITS JUDGMENT,
THE VOTE WAS NOT REPEAT NOT A DEMONSTRATION OF PRO-
ISRAEL SENTIMENT WITHIN THE ILO. FOR THE RECORD, AND
WITHOUT TRYING TO EVALUATE THEIR RELATIVE IMPORTANCE,
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WE BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTED TO THE OUTCOME:

A. THE INTEMPERATE AND UNCOMPROMISING POSITION OF THE
SPONSORS TURNED OFF MANY DELEGATES. EVEN SOME OF THE
MODERATE ARAB REPRESENTATIVES OPPOSED THE RESOLUTION AS
FORMULATED ALTHOUGH THEY FINALLY GAVE IN TO ARAB UNITY.
PRIOR TO AND DURING CONFERENCE, ILO OFFICIALS, SOME
MODERATE ARABS AND IMEC REPS ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE THE
SPONSORS TO MODIFY THE RESOLUTION TO ELIMINATE REFERENCE
TO THE 1974 RESOLUTION AND TO TAKE AS A STARTING POINT
THE REPORT BY THE VALTICOS MISSION TO ISRAEL. HAD THE
SPONSORS ACCEPTED THIS RECOMMENDATION, THERE IS LITTLE
DOUBT THAT A RESOLUTION CRITICAL OF ISRAEL AND CALLING
FOR INVESTIGATION OF LABOR CONDITIONS IN THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES WOULD HAVE PASSED BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY;

B. IMEC GOVERNMENTS, EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS LOBBIED
AMONG THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD AGAINST
THE RESOLUTION. THEIR INTEREST WAS PRIMARILY CONCERNED
WITH REMOVING THIS POLITICAL ISSUE FROM THE ILO LOOKING
FORWARD TO THE RETURN OF THE UNITED STATES TO THAT BODY;

C. AMONG THE G-77 THEMSELVES, THERE WAS GROWING RESENTMENT TOWARD THE RADICAL ARABS FOR THE HIGH-HANDED APPROACH THEY TOOK IN DRAFTING A RESOLUTION WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER G-77 STATES WHICH THEY THEN EXPECTED THE G-77 TO SUPPORT. MOREOVER, THERE WERE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF G-77 COUNTRIES WHO REALIZED THAT THE REFERENCE TO THE 1974 RESOLUTION WOULD BE INIMICAL TO THE EVENTUAL RETURN OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THEY CHOSE THIS INSTANCE AS A MEANS OF COMMUNICATING TO THE UNITED STATES THAT ITS CONCERNS HAD BEEN TAKEN SERIOUSLY;

D. MOST DELEGATIONS HAVE A DEEP COMMITMENT TO THE DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES IN THE ILO. THE VALTICOS MISSION PROVIDED A MEANS OF GETTING THIS ISSUE BACK WITHIN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DUE PROCESS MACHINERY. MANY DELEGATES WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE RESOLUTION SPONSORS DID NOT SEE THE ISSUE IN THE SAME MANNER;

E. SOME DELEGATES FROM THE DEVELOPING WORLD INDICATED TO OUR IMEC COLLEAGUES THAT THEY WERE TIRED OF THIS CONFLICT AND WANTED IT REMOVED FROM THE ILO SCENE;

F. SYRIAN, LIBYAN AND IRAQI DELEGATES DID NOT HELP THEIR CAUSE BY DENIGRATING THE ILO MACHINERY WHILE SPEAKING IN THE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE AND IN THE PLENARY. DURING THE PLENARY DISCUSSION OF THE RESOLUTION, IRAQI DELEGATE IBRAHIM CALLED INTO QUESTION THE INTEGRITY OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, VALTICOS (LEADER OF THE MISSION TO ISRAEL) AND, INDIRECTLY, THE INVESTIGATORY MACHINERY OF THE ILO. THAT HOSTILE SPEECH TURNED OFF REPS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHO BELIEVE IN THE ILO SYSTEM;

G. THE TRIPARTITE SYSTEM, UNIQUE IN THE UN FAMILY, PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME NON-GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATES TO VOTE CONTRARY TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS (E.G. THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT DELEGATES VOTED FOR THE RESOLUTION, THE EMPLOYER AND WORKER DELEGATES ABSTAINED; IN THE CASE OF INDIA, THE GOVERNMENT VOTED FOR THE RESOLUTION, THE EMPLOYER ABSENTED HIMSELF AND THE WORKER DELEGATE ABSTAINED. IN THE CASE OF GREECE, THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATES VOTED FOR THE RESOLUTION WHILE BOTH THE EMPLOYER AND WORKER DELEGATES ABSTAINED).

H. THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR, STILL EUPHORIC AFTER THIS UNACCUSTOMED EXPERIENCE IN A UN FORUM, TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL TO DISCUSS THE RESULT OF YESTERDAY'S VOTE. IN HIS JUDGEMENT, THE VOTE REFLECTED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAJOR PART THE DETERMINATION OF NATIONS TO HEED THE U.S.
WARNINGS ABOUT DUE PROCESS AND A DISCIPLINED EFFORT TO
ENCOURAGE THE U.S. TO RETURN TO MEMBERSHIP.
VANDEN HEUVEL UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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